

NATTA NEWSLETTER

[HTTPS://NATTA.ORG.NP/E-NEWSLETTER/](https://natta.org.np/e-newsletter/)



MARCH 2024



ENSURING THE SELECTION OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THE TOURISM BOARD

In a move towards ensuring transparency and efficiency within the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), there has been a call for the appointment of its CEO and members based solely on merit. These individuals play a pivotal role in spearheading initiatives aimed at promoting the country's tourism offerings on the global stage.

However, recent events have raised concerns regarding the appointment process, particularly with regards to appointments influenced by political affiliations. Following such appointments, three prominent organisations—the Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents (NATTA), Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN), and Nepal Association of Rafting Agents (NARA), which are deeply intertwined with the tourism sector—have taken a stand.

On February 4th, they collectively submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Minister of Culture, Tourism,

Top News

I.:202

- ENSURING THE SELECTION OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THE TOURISM BOARD
- PROMOTIONAL FLIGHT CONNECTS NEPALGUNJ AND JANAKPUR
- IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES E-VISA AND ONLINE PAYMENT SERVICE
- ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION (ETA) TRAINING
- ETA GALLERY
- NATTA GANDAKI PROVINCE HOSTS "NATTA FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MEET 2024" IN POKHARA
- TRAVEL STORIES

**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR
NATTA MEMBERSHIP ?**



and Civil Aviation Mr. Sudan Kirati. The memorandum unequivocally demanded that appointments to the NTB be made purely on the basis of merit, emphasising the importance of competence and qualification in such roles.

Furthermore, the memorandum stressed the need for accountability among private sector representatives within the NTB. It asserted that these members must fully align with the interests of the private sector and take ownership of their responsibilities.

Central to the memorandum is the assertion that only individuals actively involved in the tourism sector and possessing a deep understanding of its dynamics can instigate positive changes within the NTB committee.

This call for merit-based appointments underscores the collective commitment to fostering professionalism and effectiveness within the Nepal Tourism Board. It reflects a broader aspiration to elevate Nepal's tourism industry to new heights, anchored in principles of competence and integrity.

As stakeholders continue to engage in dialogue and advocacy, it is hoped that these efforts will lead to a more transparent and accountable governance structure within the NTB, ultimately benefiting Nepal's tourism sector and its broader economy.

PROMOTIONAL FLIGHT CONNECTS NEPALGUNJ AND JANAKPUR

The NATTA Banke Chapter introduced a promotional flight that enhanced religious tourism connectivity between Nepalgunj and Janakpur. The collaborative effort between the Nepal Association of Travel and Tour Agents (NATTA) Banke Chapter and Yeti Airlines inaugurated a promotional flight linking Nepalgunj and Janakpur. Under the leadership of Mr. Shreeram Sidel, President of the NATTA Banke Chapter, the inaugural flight accommodated 70 passengers, marking the commencement of this significant initiative.

This promotional flight aimed to bolster connec-

tivity between two prominent religious destinations, Ayodhya via Nepalgunj and Janakpur, catering to the needs of religious tourism. Targeting travellers from Nepal and India, the route provides a vital link to Janakpur, the sacred birthplace of Mata Sita, and Ayodhya, the revered birthplace of her consort, Shri Ram. This initiative holds immense potential to elevate the tourism sectors in both Nepal and India.

नेपालगन्ज - जनकपुर - नेपालगन्ज प्रवर्द्धनात्मक हवाई उडान



Scheduled Flight Details:

Designation:	Nepalgunj to Janakpur
Date:	February 17th, 2024
Time:	13:45 hrs
Designation:	Janakpur to Nepalgunj
Date:	February 17th, 2024
Time:	15:15 hrs

This venture offers a convenient and efficient transportation option for travellers seeking to delve into the rich religious and cultural heritage of these regions. It signifies a significant stride in promoting internal tourism for religious purposes, highlighting the diverse traditions and spiritual tapestry of Nepal. Enthusiasts of spiritual and cultural exploration are encouraged to seize this exceptional opportunity and embark on a journey that transcends geographical boundaries, connecting the spiritual dots between Nepalgunj and Janakpur.

Contact Us

+977-1 4518661, 4519409

IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES E-VISA AND ONLINE PAYMENT SERVICE



The Immigration Department has launched several new online services, including e-visas, online payment facilities, electronic travel authorization, and trekking permits. Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha inaugurated these services on February 9th.

Starting Friday, the department has transitioned to providing fully automated services for immigration administration online. This means that individuals can access services from the comfort of their homes through digital and automatic operations within the immigration department and its offices.

President Ramesh Thapa of NATTA, along with NATTA Board Members and the CEO of the NATTA Secretariat, actively participated in the event. Moreover, representatives from other esteemed associations within the tourism industry also attended the programme.

We extend our gratitude to the Immigration Department for organising this informative program. Furthermore, we eagerly anticipate collaborating on future projects aimed at advancing Nepal's tourism sector development.

**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR
NATTA MEMBERSHIP ?**

ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION (ETA) TRAINING

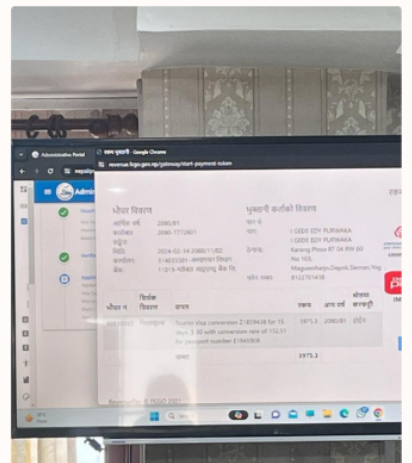
The training program organized by NATTA in collaboration with the Department of Immigration aimed at equipping more than 60 members from various Tour & Travel and Trekking agencies with the necessary skills for Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA). The primary focus was on the efficient use of the online portal for E-Visa issuance and Online Trekking Permit processes.

The Training program was divided into four different sessions.

- Welcome Speech by Director General Mr Rudra Singh Tamang.
- Training on online Visa Application Process
- Training on Online Tourist Visa Extension.
- Online Trekking Permit Issuance.

The active participation of over 60 members from different travel and trekking agencies showcased the industry's eagerness to enhance their knowledge and skills. Mr Pramod Gautam's expertise and clear communication during the sessions ensured that the complex processes of online visa and trekking permit issuance were understood by all participants. Interactive Q&A sessions allowed for a dynamic exchange of information and addressed the specific concerns raised by the travel personnel.

The training program successfully achieved its objectives by empowering travel and trekking agency members with the knowledge and skills needed for Electronic Travel Authorization. The collaboration between NATTA and the Department of Immigration facilitated a valuable exchange of expertise, contributing to the improvement of online visa and trekking permit processes. The engagement of participants and the effective guidance provided by Mr Pramod Gautam ensured that the training was informative, practical, and beneficial for all involved stakeholders. This initiative is expected to enhance the overall efficiency and effectiveness of travel-related procedures, benefiting both agencies and travellers alike.



ETA Training

NATTA GANDAKI PROVINCE HOSTS "NATTA FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MEET 2024" IN POKHARA

"TOURISM FOR PROSPERITY"

NATTA FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MEET - 2024

3RD FEBRUARY, SATURDAY

ORGANIZED BY:



NATTA
GANDAKI PROVINCE

VENUE:

POKHARA-24, BASKOT, (NEAR PAME BAZAR)

Under the direction of its President, Mr. Hariram Adhikari, and the board members, NATTA Gandaki Province organised the "NATTA Family Fellowship Meet 2024" on February 3rd, 2024, in the serene setting of Pokhara, frequently referred to as Nepal's tourism capital. Nestled amidst its breathtaking beauty, Pokhara beckons travellers with its serene lakes and thrilling adventure activities like trekking and paragliding.

The event, held at the Bamboo Bridge in Baskot, attracted esteemed figures from the tourism industry who revelled in the tranquil beauty of Pokhara, fostering camaraderie and goodwill among attendees. Mr. Kumar Mani Thapaliya, NATTA's Secretary General, actively participated and contributed to the event's success. His presence underscored the importance of fostering solidarity and collaboration within the NATTA community, aligning with the overarching goal of promoting and fortifying Nepal's tourism sector. Mr. Ganesh Pokharel, an Executive Member of NATTA Gandaki Province, skillfully managed the event, ensuring a seamless experience for all participants.

The primary goal of the gathering was to strengthen unity within Nepal's tourism sector. Providing an opportunity for members to form personal connections, the event aimed to cultivate enduring friendships beyond professional boundaries. It demonstrated the solidarity within the tourism fraternity, promoting collaboration and camaraderie crucial for advancing Nepal's tourism industry. This event underscored the importance of unity in driving the sector towards success.



Travel Stories

Explore Kathmandu



Written by: **Alex Kovacheva**

© www.nomad-photos.com/blog/travel-stories-from-kathmandu

MEMORIES FROM KATHMANDU

The very first impression I got from Nepal happened while I was 2km up in the air somewhere above the Himalaya about to land in Kathmandu. The city was wrapped in clouds and the pilot had to circle the plane in the air in hope that the clouds will disperse. It wasn't even sure we were going to land in Kathmandu as we received a message we could head to another country if the clouds refuse to move away. Forty minutes later, while we were racing down the concrete airport runway, **I thought to myself: "Nature is king in Nepal"**. And the more I walked around Kathmandu, the more I saw this thought materialize in the city around me.

The whole city is practically nested in the Himalayan Mountain: a guardian that protected Nepal from invasion through the past centuries, but also a mighty force capable of causing destruction. I spoke with a Nepali friend of mine who told me proudly **"we don't celebrate Independence Day in Nepal, because we were never an occupied country"**. The reverence of people for the surrounding mountains is contagious and stays with me to this day. Walking the streets in Kathmandu, you can notice that, truly, Nature has the last word in Nepal. Traces of the horrific 2015 earthquake that killed nearly 9000 people were still visible in 2018 when I visited. As such, damaged buildings and streets are also a part of the reality that is in Kathmandu today.

So what was is like to walk around in Kathmandu?

It was bustling with crazy traffic on the streets. It was sensing the harmony in the chaos. It was the street markets and tiny restaurants from where curious faces were inviting me for a conversation or a meal. It was all these little moments you can't really describe with words, so I'll let the pictures below speak for themselves.

Nepal was also the first time for me to experience being in a predominantly Hindu country. There are several important Hindu temples in Kathmandu. Among them all, my favorite and in my opinion also the most magical, is the Swayambhunath Stupa. I stayed there for hours just breathing the air infused with incense, watching people coming in and out, whispering their prayers, lighting a candle... time flew by in this sacred place.

I will be honest here. I didn't spend much time in Kathmandu as my main purpose of going to Nepal was trekking in the mountains. I didn't read much about the history and people of the country, but rest assured, the culture of Nepal is as rich as its nature. **I should mention here my good friend Anish, who I met in Kathmandu and is one of the most knowledgeable people I've ever met in my travels. If you want to learn about Nepali culture, history and people, Anish can be contacted via email.** Finally, Nepal is also home to many Tibetans. It's an opportunity for you to have a glimpse into the mysterious and fascinating world of Tibet. Take this with respect and humility as the story of Tibetan people is intertwined with sadness and struggle.

I'll leave it here for Kathmandu, but I do hope life will give me a chance to be back there one day. There are more treks in Nepal that I really dream of doing. I still keep the notes I took in 2018 about planning these treks "some time" in the future... **I do not know which path will take me back to Nepal, but I am looking forward to be back in these outlandish places filled with culture and color. But most of all, I long to be a part of the untamed, powerful and awe-inspiring wilderness.**

